

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for controlling network access through a
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method
3 comprising:
 - 4 a) initializing an account;
 - 5 b) verifying credit of the customer; and
 - 6 c) requesting service via the remote terminal
7 adapter if the credit of the customer is approved.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the act of initializing
2 an account includes
 - 3 i) receiving a connection initiated by the
4 customer;
 - 5 ii) requesting
 - 6 A) a room number associated with the
7 remote terminal,
 - 8 B) an identifier associated with the
9 remote terminal,
 - 10 C) credit information of the customer,
11 and
 - 12 D) service period information desired by
13 the customer,
 - 14 from the customer over the connection; and
 - 15 iii) accepting the requested information from
16 the customer.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the act of initializing
2 an account further includes
 - 3 iv) storing at least some of the requested
4 information accepted in a temporary account
5 database.

1 4. A method for controlling network access through a
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method
3 comprising:

- 4 a) initializing an account;
- 5 b) attempting to verify account information; and
- 6 c) requesting service via the remote terminal
7 adapter if the account information is verified.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the act of initializing
2 an account includes

- 3 i) receiving a connection initiated by the
4 customer;
- 5 ii) requesting
 - 6 A) a room number associated with the
7 remote terminal,
 - 8 B) an identifier associated with the
9 remote terminal,
 - 10 C) credit information of the customer,
11 and
 - 12 D) service period information desired by
13 the customer,
 - 14 from the customer over the connection; and
- 15 iii) accepting the requested information from
16 the customer.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the act of initializing
2 an account further includes

3 iv) storing at least some of the requested
4 information accepted in a temporary account
5 database.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the act of attempting
2 to verify account information includes checking a room
3 number, terminal identifier, and a caller identifier with
4 information in a participant properties database.

1 8. A machine-readable medium storing information for
2 verifying service requests for use of a network access
3 terminal accessible to a short-term, transient,
4 customer-base, the information including:
5 a) a first field for storing an identifier
6 associated with the network access terminal;
7 b) a second field for storing information for
8 identifying a property at which the network access
9 terminal is located;
10 c) a third field for storing information for
11 identifying a room in which the network access
12 terminal is located.

1 9. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 information further includes:

3 d) a fourth field for storing outgoing telephone
4 numbers associated with the property identified in
5 the second field.

1 10. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 information further includes:

3 d) a fourth field for storing an address of the
4 network access terminal.

1 11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the
2 address is an internet protocol address.

1 12. A method for controlling network access through a
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method
3 comprising:

4 a) requesting order information from the customer;
5 b) accepting the requested order information from
6 the customer;
7 c) verifying credit information provided by the
8 customer;
9 d) instructing that the remote terminal for network
10 access be enabled;
11 e) instructing that the enablement of the remote
12 terminal be terminated at the expiration of a
13 service period.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2 f) billing the customer for use of the remote
3 terminal for network access.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2 g) distributing funds to at least one of (a) an
3 owner of the remote terminal, and (b) an owner of a
4 property at which the remote terminal is located.